

HOUSE BILL 9040

By Griffey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 29  
and Title 39, relative to mask requirements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, is amended by adding  
the following as a new part:

(a) It is an offense for any person or entity to intentionally require that another  
wear a mask for the purpose of preventing the spread of COVID-19:

(1) As a condition of employment; or

(2) In order to enter any building, facility, or property that is generally  
open to the public.

(b)

(1) A first violation of subsection (a) is a Class C misdemeanor.

(2) A second violation of subsection (a) is a Class B misdemeanor and  
shall be punished by a fine of no less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(3) A third or subsequent violation of subsection (a) is a Class A  
misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of no less than two thousand five  
hundred dollars (\$2,500).

(c) It is an exception to the application of subsection (a) if the requirement is a  
condition for entry into a hospital or other facility used for healthcare treatment of a  
person who has been designated by a physician as being at high risk of death from  
exposure to a communicable disease.

(d) As used in this section, "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19, including any mutation of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect January 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.